

The PACESETTER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF PACE AT LOCKWOOD – Winter 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello PACE families,

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year! So far, we have had lots of wins plus we continue to have challenges. As a program, we aren't scared to pivot, look at something from a different angle, and then try something new. I know some of you may feel that in the last two years PACE has changed a lot, but our world has changed and without change you can't grow and improve. I challenge you to think less about how PACE has changed and more about how PACE is evolving and becoming stronger.

I am so proud of all that we have done as a program! We have had several incursions, virtual field trips, classroom enrichment, volunteers in the classroom, Mini Units, Spanish, and our kids are really enjoying school and their respective classes. We have a fun Mini Unit session coming up in March with the Toy Maker – which is S.T.E.M. + Art focused. Outdoor Ed planning is underway, and we will get creative on how to make this day happen. In addition, we are planning some fun spring field trips. I feel that we've all learned how to be more flexible. That being said, I am very optimistic that we are getting back to the true PACE enrichments that really make this program magical.

The PACEsetter really highlights the true meaning of PACE - it is about our community and the enrichment of our students. I am looking forward to learning what our students have been up to, plus I can't wait to see what is ahead for our incredible students!

- **Jessica R.**

PACE at Lockwood President

FIRST GRADE



The first-grade class is back in action after winter break! Some of the classmates were able to get together over break and enjoy a day of fun in the snow, which included sledding, snowball fights (friendly of course), and yes, more sledding. It was great to have the snow and see the joy they had playing in it, but also happy that we were able to return to school once it melted.

The students have gotten back into the routines of their classroom responsibilities. The kids really seem to enjoy the "jobs" they get to do in class, which include writing the number of the day on the board, recycling duty, library book return, line leader, door holder, and the favorite might be feeding the class pets, Cookie and Ginger, both hermit crabs. Cookie is currently in need of a new shell! Both pets are thriving under the careful

watched eye of the entire first-grade class (and teacher of course).

The winter months have been focused on throwing kindness to our classmates. This involves selecting a paper "snowball", writing a kind note on it for a fellow classmate. Eventually, these get compiled in their own bucket. The kids really enjoy giving and receiving the kind words from each other, and we have seen several children put quite a bit of thought into the words they are giving to their fellow students.

To keep with the winter theme, they have been creating stories about the snow and holidays using story elements (having a beginning, middle, and end of the story). These stories all have a main character, a problem to solve, and a resolution as well. If you take

some time to read these stories, you will see the variations in creativity from student to student. The jokes and premises they come up with are endless and full of joy. The class also came up with some resolutions for the new year. Brushing your teeth, learning new

songs, having less screentime, exercise and trying something new each day, are just a few of the things they wanted to work on this year.

- **Natalie V.**

SECOND GRADE



Inspired by The Jolly Postman, Or Other People's Letters written by Janet and Allan Ahlberg, second-grade PACE students worked on writing, illustrating, and even self-publishing their own books between the holiday breaks. Students learned about their connection to the world and a few of the living things in our region. This major project required students to use their knowledge of science, composition, handwriting, visual arts, and organization skills to complete their books which also included a game! Students achieved a well-earned sense of accomplishment from this task as well as learning the value of working methodically toward a goal.

On the last day of class in 2021, students celebrated the upcoming winter holidays with a party and gift exchange. They enjoyed hot chocolate with marshmallows and candy canes while socializing with each other. Students opened gifts from each other, then

made sure to show their appreciation as well. On behalf of the class, a donation was made to assist with the preservation of orca whales in our region. Mr. Wallace was presented with the symbolic adoption of an orca whale named "Fluke". All students received a picture of their class-adopted "Fluke" as well. Giving this gift to Mr. Wallace was a very touching moment shared by all in the room as everyone felt the significance of the gift.

In January, students completed studies of the Earth's surface as well as earthquakes and volcanoes. Their learning journey continues as they dive into ecosystems and interdependencies. Students' learning will be further enhanced with close observation of Coho salmon eggs that will eventually be released in our own local Swamp Creek in the spring.

- **Dana H.**

THIRD GRADE



Happy 2022 PACE families! I hope you had a peaceful and happy holiday season. We enjoyed family time and surprise snow.

Since the last PACESetter, our third-grade students have been working hard during math by solving multiple-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems by regrouping, using place value, and estimating by rounding up.

During writing and reading, kids have been practicing their writing weekly in small Word Works groups. Students spent almost two months researching details and facts about their chosen person, focusing on the character traits and what details were most important to share in their biography slide presentation. Students were introduced to citations and references. All of our third graders worked very hard on this project. They

learned many new computer skills along the way. I had the opportunity to volunteer during some of the writing workshops and am very proud of our kids and how much work they did. I can't wait to see the final product.

During science, our third graders finished their study on forces and experimented with electricity. For Christmas, kids made their own holiday cards with LED lights, wires, and batteries. Recently they focused on studying the atmosphere and all about weather.

Our classroom had two fun Art Docent classes in the last two months. In December, students built their own gingerbread houses thanks to the generosity and time from our class parents. Fun fact: Mrs. Dawson participates each year in a Gingerbread House Competition. Next time you see her, ask what design she built this holiday with her family. The most recent

Art Docent class was about textile arts, specifically weaving. Students tried out weaving bookmarks by using straw as the loom.

During music class, students mainly focused on practicing songs for the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., and enjoyed music games. P.E. teachers

introduced kids to hockey (a big hit) and basketball in the last two months. Desk Fairy continues to visit occasionally to check and make sure students keep their desks tidy, and Mrs. Dawson's classroom library seems to expand each month.

- **Izabela M.**

FOURTH GRADE



The PACE fourth graders transitioned from 2021 to 2022!

In math, students continued to work on multiplication, earning a classroom celebration for completing their multiplication facts goal. The students have begun to learn division, practicing their long division skills.

In writing, students finished the personal narratives that they had been working on, continued writing letters to their fourth-grade pen pals from another school, and have started to work on their next writing project: informational reports. For these reports, students are in groups assigned to a specific region of Washington and select topics to research and write about for that region. (Great motivation to take a family road trip to your student's assigned region of Washington state and learn and see something new!)

In science, the students have learned about bones, tendons, and muscles. They have built a model of the eye and have worked at answering the questions of "what do blind people see?" and "how do animals see in the dark?" And most recently, the students looked at how the brain controls the body.

In reading, the students met in small book clubs to read and discuss a book together. The student groups got to decide how many pages to read for the next book club meeting, sometimes assigning themselves an ambitious number of pages to read in a short amount of time! All

students are also working on accomplishing their reading goal for the school year, striving to read a certain number of books of various genres, and then discussing and recording the books they have read in reading conferences at home or at school. So fun to see students catch the reading bug and devouring a whole book series, and then recommending a book to another student or even to a parent to read. The students are really excited to be able to share what books they are reading!

In addition to P.E., music, and library, the students have found time to do Hour of Code, Spanish class, and meet with their kindergarten buddies. Ms. Tradal has found ways to include art and drama in the classroom as well, including having the kids watch a Living Voices drama followed by a live, virtual Q&A with the actor; having the students create string art; and having each of the students create a snowman to give away as gifts just before the winter break.

Meanwhile, we parents continue our education in the Greek alphabet – omicron is the 15th letter. Looking forward to all of the new things the fourth graders will be learning and experiencing during the remainder of the school year! And wishing everyone good health and lots of reading adventures with their fourth grader in 2022!

- **Cathy B.**

FIFTH GRADE



Following Mrs. Parrott's PIE acronym, your friendly neighborhood fifth-grade PACESetter writer's purpose is to inform (I) you of the recent activities in our fifth-

grade class. I'm not here to persuade (P), but hopefully there is some entertainment (E).

Winter started with the all-important parent-teacher conferences which was highlighted by our students

leading the conference. They came with an agenda and led the conversation in a timely and organized manner. Now, if I could only get my colleagues at work to do the same thing!!! Perhaps I should ask Mrs. Parrott to come in as a consultant.

The Boston simulation continues as it is not 1775 and things are heating up in Beantown as a revolution is near. Who is a red coat? Who is a rebel? What could possibly be next?

One thing that's next for sure is more books!!! Students are halfway to their goal of reading 40 by year's end and are embarking on writing their second publication. Are they going to persuade, inform, or entertain (there's that PIE again)? Well, surely they will utilize their new skills with adverbs, adjectives, antonyms, synonyms, and the plethora of tools they are learning in class. Can't wait to read our budding authors' works. Perhaps one about the deliciousness of PIE?

In October, our NSD art docent lesson was inspired by Yayoi Kusama, an artist from Japan. She is well known for both pumpkins and infinity rooms. Each student in Mrs. Parrott and Mrs. Chase-Fowler's classes created a pumpkin to contribute to our Lockwood pseudo-infinity room. The art was displayed in the foyer leading to the cafeteria and its collective presence was striking! I'm

sure that was their favorite Halloween treat and not the candy – right?

Almost as sweet as a Reece's peanut butter cup was the first incursion field trip from Living Voices in January – The New American. It was amazing, an excellent representation of an immigrant coming to America, and the students thoroughly enjoyed getting a chance to speak with one of the actors. More incursions are on the way including Wheat Week.

The students are also hard at work developing their Science Fair project. The kids are endeavoring to be real scientists and develop experiments that will answer a question they have come up with, such as "How many chocolate chips are in a Safeway cookie?" Hmmm... can I get PACE hours by eating cookies with my kid?

And finally, we're all excited that a *partir de febrero, el español será presencial. ¡¡¡Muy bien!!!* (Translation for those of us who haven't taken Spanish since high school: starting in February, Spanish will be in person. Very good!!!)

That's it for this edition. With all this talk of treats, time to go scrounge myself up some PIE. Do I cut into $\frac{1}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ and what is the lowest common denominator?

- **Sean M.**